

Dole knocks Clinton 'dog-and-pony show'

By Ray Hemman
The Hutchinson News

The question was on health care. Sen. Bob Dole took it a step further.

"We can't move until the president submits the package," the Kansas Republican said Friday during his weekly telephone press conference with Kansas journalists. "We're getting a daily dose of symbolism of some kind or another. It's going to be a lot of symbolism in this administration. Every day there will be some dog-and-pony show. Until we get the package, it's pretty hard for us to act on it."

Dole had been asked how soon Congress might act on President Bill Clinton's health proposals. Friday's announcement was the president's announcement of a \$300 million program to make vaccines available to 1 million additional children this year.

The Kansan also took the opportunity to question the wisdom

of Clinton's economic-stimulation package.

"Many of us don't believe the stimulus package is necessary. The recovery is well under way. Growth is up in the last quarter. It was up the quarter before that. We've got productivity up. We've got car sales up. We've got home sales up. Every indication is the recovery is for real. We don't need to add \$25 (billion) or \$30 billion to the deficit for a stimulus package."

"But President Clinton's going to do that. Then he can claim credit for the recovery in six months. He can say, 'Well, I put in \$30 billion. That's why the recovery is going so well.' That's the politics of it. Until he sends us a package, we won't act. When he does it, we can act fairly quickly. I think the American people, the Kansas people, want us to act fairly quickly."

On Thursday, Agriculture Sec-

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— Sen. Bob Dole

retary Mike Espy said the president's economic-recovery package would include "substantial assistance" in rural America.

Dole said he would like to see Clinton provide some capital-gains relief that could help rural businesses and farmers, possibly an investment tax credit and spending restraints on government. He also hopes the president does not lower the estate tax

exemption, as has been suggested in some quarters of Washington.

"We would like the president to say he is not going to lower the estate tax exemption from \$600,000 to \$200,000," Dole said. "That affects every small-business man or woman and almost every farmer in rural America, rural Kansas, too."

"We would like to see some capital-gains tax relief. We've got a lot of people with businesses and farms that would sell if they could get some tax relief. It's not just the big fat cats on Wall Street that are going to benefit from a capital-gains-tax reduction."

Dole also said the nation needed to continue the Export Enhancement Program. One recipient of EEP has been the republics of the former Soviet Union. Russia is in default on some \$290 million worth of payments.

The Kansan believes the

United States must work with the Russians.

"We've had some indications from the new secretary of agriculture that he thinks we ought to stay in the market," Dole said. "My view from the start has been that we knew that we were gambling when we extended credits to the former Soviet Union. We also knew we had a stake in democracy in the former Soviet Union, and that we might be risking American dollars because the alternatives are much, much worse than the loss of the money. There could be another arms buildup, could be further confrontations, could mean raising our defense budget, billions instead of cutting it billions."

Dole said he would like efforts to be made to restructure the debt. He feels that Russian President Boris Yeltsin and leaders of other Russian republics will see that the United States ultimately is repaid.

Dole: Where will cuts come?

Roberts concerned Kansans will suffer

By States News Service

WASHINGTON — "The time has come for blame to end," and both parties must take responsibility for the deficit, President Clinton told the nation Wednesday night.

But Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole, champion of Capitol Hill Republicans now that the Democrats hold the White House, said he is not ready to sign onto a deficit-reduction plan that also raises taxes and increases government spending.

"Once you take out all the smoke and mirrors, I'm not sure what the spending cuts really are," the Kansas Republican said on a Cable News Network interview after the president's speech.

"I've got to believe the package has got to be in trouble because it is overloaded with new taxes," Dole said. "But this (the plan) has a long way to go. This is just the kickoff."

Dole said Republicans would help in targeting spending cuts, but it was up to Democrats to shepherd the plan through Congress.



Dole



Roberts

"This is pretty much a Democratic plan. The president understands that," he said. "It is going to be up to the Democrats to provide the votes for it. But if we can help on spending cuts we have an obligation to do that."

Rep. Pat Roberts, R-Dodge City, said he was concerned Kansas would suffer under the president's plan.

"These energy taxes are going to hurt farmers and ranchers very hard," he said. "I am very concerned the president has concentrated too much on taxes instead of spending cuts."

Roberts said he was particularly worried that any decrease in Medicare payments would bankrupt struggling rural Kansas hospitals.

But other Kansas legislators were

more enthusiastic about the president's plan.

"I thought it was a bold, courageous speech," said Rep. Dan Glickman, D-Wichita. "It is not one that is going to evoke total support right away because it is going to force people to make hard choices."

Glickman said lawmakers are enthusiastic about the plan and may refrain from trying to load it up with special-interest amendments.

"If we nit-pick it apart now it is going to die," he said. "We are all going to find things we don't like in it."

Congress will add more spending cuts to the plan, which should pass the House, along with a health-care reform bill, near the end of the summer, Glickman predicted.

Democratic Rep. Jim Slattery of Topeka says the plan, while imperfect, is a crucial phase in the nation's destiny.

"Clinton is leading with his chin," he said. "I've been in Congress 10 years and I feel for the first time we have a president who is leading in systematic ways to deal with the deficit."

Dole: Clinton can't have it both ways

By Ray Hemman
The Hutchinson News

The top Republican in Washington called on President Bill Clinton to find more cuts if he wants to make his budget work.

Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., said Clinton's budget package provides all its deficit reduction through increased taxes until 1997 because of all the new programs the president would spend money on.

"They've got real problems unless they can come up with more savings," Dole said Friday during a telephone press conference with Kansas journalists. "President Clinton just can't have it both ways. He can't promise everybody that we're going to have an early Christmas, that we're going to be Santa Claus to everybody in America, including the governors, the mayors and everybody that might be in line for something and still say we are going to reduce the deficit."

Dole objected to Clinton's linking support of his budget package

Senator says more cuts, less spending needed

with patriotism. The Kansan said he had never heard patriotism linked with tax hikes before and has received several calls from constituents complaining about Clinton's comments "particularly because of his own service record, I guess."

Telephone calls to Dole's office have been mixed. Through early Friday, his Washington office had 130 calls against Clinton's plan and 69 in favor.

Reaction calls to Kansas offices shifted between Thursday and Friday. Thursday, 609 calls favored Clinton's plan, while 555 were against. Friday morning, calls were running 162 in favor of the president's plans and 241 against.

Dole predicted the cuts that Clinton has proposed would face "tough sledding" in Congress. Many of the cuts proposed by the president have been suggested

before by Republican administrations and rejected.

Since his speech to a joint session of Congress Wednesday, Clinton has been on the road, talking to public groups about his budget package.

"I think there is a conception you don't have to talk to members (of Congress)," Dole said. "You go out and talk to people, and they talk to the members. That would be great if it worked that way and if nobody else had a chance to say anything — you'd have a chance to sell your program. In a free system like ours, we've had access to the media of all kinds to make suggestions. When I leave here, I will go in the next room and have seven national radio to talk about the program."

"Privately, I've said I think President Clinton ought to focus on how he gets 218 votes in the House and 51 in the Senate. We won't have these votes for several years. He may have the public wrapped up today, but the vote's not today. It would be nice if he would say, 'I've got 45 votes I can count on, and I just need six more.' Maybe he'll start that program."

"The bottom line is how many votes you have, and I don't think he has the votes yet."

Dole also was asked about what could be done for the 7,000 Boeing employees who are expected to be laid off. At this point, little can be done immediately for those employees because the problems are long-term.

Several factors have led to the downturn in Boeing's business. Among the factors listed were the worldwide recession, predatory pricing of bankrupt airlines, unfair competition from Boeing's chief European competitor and the airlines having too much capacity.

In the short term, Dole doubted an investment tax credit would be enough to spur significant demand for aircraft. Retraining programs, too, might not be effective if not enough other jobs exist to employ the workers.

The bankruptcy code, too, may need to be examined. When a failing airline declares bankruptcy, one strategy that has been used to generate cash flow is to cut fare significantly. Those cut-rate fares have affected the profits of all airlines.

During the press conference, Dole called on the Clinton administration to work more actively with republics of the former Soviet Union to sell grain. Currently, grain sales to Russia have been suspended because the nation has not made payments on loans for the grain.

Dole said he has suggested investigating barter sales of grain. "We are going to lose those markets," Dole said. "Other countries will not horse around."

Carping, sniping, one-upmanship have no effect on federal deficit

By Tom Webb

Eagle Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — For political pie-throwing fans, here's a recap of last week in Washington, home of the budget deficit.

Sen. Bob Dole kicked off the week complaining about President Clinton's economic proposal, which he found too heavy on taxes and too light on spending cuts.

"He's taxing everybody," said Dole, the Senate Republican leader from Kansas. "It's a taxing administration."

Dole made his charge Sunday, when the week was just 11 hours old. But during those 11 hours the federal deficit had already grown by \$419 million.

On Monday, Clinton was campaigning for his package of spending cuts and tax increases to cut the deficit. He said his package provided specific numbers, and challenged his critics to provide the same.

By then, the week's contribution to the federal deficit was \$1.311 billion.

On Tuesday, Dole made it clear that neither he nor other Republicans were about to recommend any specific spending cuts. He did, however, mock "Clinton's Tricky Tax Bill."

"We want to keep the debate on the Clinton program," Dole said. "It's his program, and it's not our strategy to rush right out within a



"We want to keep the debate on the Clinton program," says Sen. Bob Dole.

week and say, 'Here's another whole new plan and let's let all the liberal media take out after our plan.'"

As Dole pronounced the president's package in trouble, the week's federal debt had grown by \$2.14 billion.

On Wednesday, Clinton shot back at Dole's criticism.

"The Senate minority leader ... was here during the last 12 years when other presidents and the Congress quadrupled the national debt. I'm trying to do something about it, and turn it around and go in the opposite direction."

White House spokesman George Stephanopoulos was even more biting. "The package isn't in trouble, because there's no alternative to the package — at least of all from Sen. Dole and his colleagues in the Senate. They have done a good job of carping and whining, but they can't come up with any alternatives."

By then, the week's flow of red ink had risen to \$3.06 billion.

On Thursday, Dole hit the Senate floor to slam the White House as well as The Washington Post, which provoked Dole's ire for inviting Republicans to fax in their specific budget-cutting ideas. Dole again charged that the Clinton package was fuzzy in detail and heavy on taxes.

Then Dole added, "A word of advice to the communications department at the White House: They ought to calm down. Go out for a weekend. Have a diet Coke. Enjoy yourself."

At that point Thursday, the federal budget deficit had grown \$3.93 billion for the week.

All told, during last week's political tug of war, the federal budget deficit grew by \$6,121,643,500.

Despite the public bickering, both Clinton and Dole insist they're willing to work together to craft a deficit-reduction plan for the country.

In the meanwhile, it's now the start of a new week. And the deficit is growing still.

Dole backs credit for ex-Soviet states

By The Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — The Clinton Administration should extend new trade credits and reschedule \$400 million in debt for republics of the former Soviet Union, Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole said Monday.

The Kansan conceded "we may even lose a little money" in making new trade concessions. But the stability of the former Soviet Union is at stake.

Extending trade credits, which would allow the sale of grain, could help prop up the regime of Boris Yeltsin and preserve stability in the region, Dole said.

To offset the cost, trade bargainers should consider a barter arrangement, Dole said. He suggested an oil-for-grain swap.

"They've got oil, they've got gas, they've got a lot of things we might be able to exchange," Dole said. "Maybe we can get their oil in our strategic petroleum reserve, and they can get our grain. They want it, they need it."

Dole said he met with a Russian trade delegation last week to work on

the outlines of an agreement. Talks are complicated by debt already owed for earlier aid.

"The fact that they owe us \$400 million is unfortunate, but in my view, we ought to reschedule the debt," Dole said. "They ought to pay the interest payments, and we ought to take a look at whether or not we ought to extend additional credits."

Dole's comments came at the opening of a two-day conference on the changes sweeping the nation's farm sector, a session likely to be dominated by trade issues crucial to expanding farm exports.

The trade relationship with the republics that make up the former Soviet Union, including the Russian Republic, is key to such agreements.

"There are a number of reasons we ought to be willing to make the investment," Dole said. "We may even lose a little money in preserving democracy in the short run. We may make a lot of money and save a lot of money and bloodshed in the long run if democracy prevails."



Dole

Sen. Dole keeps the spending down

U.S. Sen. Bob Dole who is beginning his fifth term has been a friend of Republicans and Democrats alike in his able and concerned representation of the State of Kansas.

Since this session of Congress opened Jan. 3, 1993, as the Republican leader in the Senate, he has tried to sort through the newly introduced bills by the Democrats, and evaluate the working results and impacts falling on both individuals and corporations if adopted.

Not everything President Bill Clinton is proposing is good for Kansas or Kansans, and we're relying on the conservatives — old and new in Congress — to work with Bob Dole to keep spending down so there is something left over to lower the federal

deficit, which is supposed to be the object of any tax increase.

Bob Dole is doing his best to keep the debt reduction figures ahead of new taxes the Democrats want you and me to pay. This is what is called reducing the national debt without reducing Congressional spending.

Sen. Bob Dole has done and will continue his best efforts to hold down Congressional excesses which can be expected from a large majority present in Congress.

Bob Dole's stable leadership and influence in the U.S. Senate should be appreciated and supported by all Kansans in these wild times ahead. He would appreciate hearing your individual concerns.

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McConnell air base intact for now

By Barry Massey
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon will not propose any changes at McConnell Air Force Base near Wichita as part of a new round of military base closings and consolidations, Kansas senators said Thursday.

Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole and Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kan., made the announcement after meeting with Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Merrill McPeak and other top military officials.

There had been reports last week that the Air Force had recommended moving a National Guard fighter training operation from McConnell to a base in Arizona.

Dole and Kassebaum said no such changes at McConnell would

be proposed by Defense Secretary Les Aspin, who is scheduled to announce today a list of bases targeted by the Pentagon for closing and cutbacks.

The senators said the Air Force had at least temporarily shelved consideration of any changes of the training and bomber missions at McConnell.

"We're pleased to say the F-16s are staying in Kansas until the plan gets the review it deserves," Dole said in a statement.

"Gen. McPeak assured us that the Air Force will work closely with the Air National Guard and our offices in assessing any possible change at McConnell," Kassebaum said.

Currently, about 60 F-16s are used at McConnell by the Kansas Air National Guard 184th Tactical Wing to train pilots. The Air



Dole



Kassebaum

Force has 17 B-1B bombers based at McConnell along with a similar number of KC-135 tankers.

Information about possible base closings has been leaking out in recent weeks and there were reports that the Air Force had recommended to Aspin that all National Guard F-16s be transferred to a base near Phoenix as part of a nationwide training consolidation.

McConnell has about 3,100 active duty personnel and 400 civilian workers. The fighter wing had about 1,500 personnel, including both full-time and part-time workers.

Dole and Kassebaum objected to changes at McConnell during a nearly hour-long meeting with McPeak.

The Air Force was considering a transfer of the fighter training operation at McConnell as part of a broader planning process separate from the base closing and realignment procedure, according to Dan Stanley, a Dole aide who handles defense issues.

The Air Force, Stanley said, did not recommend to Aspin that changes be made at McConnell under the base closing commission process. Instead, the McConnell proposal was under

consideration as part of a longer term restructuring of Air Force missions nationwide.

"We're going to put it on hold and take a good look at the options and get back to Gen. McPeak," Dole said of the McConnell proposal.

Kassebaum, in a tape-recorded statement, said, "Obviously there will be considerations of their mission at a later time. But Gen. McPeak assured us that the Air Force is going to work closely with the Air National Guard and with our offices in assessing any possible change."

The latest round of base closings are in response to declining numbers of troops, federal budget pressures and changing military missions in the aftermath of the breakup of the former Soviet Union.

Economic outline wins Senate OK

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Acting in record time, a divided Senate approved on Thursday a blueprint of President Clinton's plan to spark the economy and trim the budget deficit.

Democrats marched in near lockstep behind their new president. "Finally we've done something to break the gridlock and to bring the deficit down and to create new jobs through investment," Clinton exulted during a congratulatory telephone call afterward to top Senate Democrats.

"It's a remarkable achievement,"

Democrats eager to use their political momentum then launched the Senate into debate on the more controversial place of Clinton's package: a \$16.3 billion measure aimed at creating jobs for teens and other out-of-work Americans.

That package faced rock-solid opposition from Republicans and a phalanx of conservative Democrats eager to trim or delay its spending, but with Clinton insisting that he wanted the measure passed unaltered, it seemed likely to be approved largely intact next week.

The Senate's 54-45 approval of Clinton's blueprint for economic revival came just 36 days after he

unveiled his planned tax and spending changes in a nationally televised address. Never since the budget law was enacted in 1974 had the Senate completed initial work on a spending plan in March.

With the House having approved a similar measure last week, negotiators from both Democratic-controlled chambers planned to craft and enact a compromise version next week. The actual cuts and increases in tax and spending will follow in later bills.

"I think the American people want action," said Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine. "I think the American people want change. And this Senate has taken a step toward giving it to them."

In six days of debate, Republicans had launched repeated assaults against the keystones of Clinton's plan. But every element — higher taxes on the rich, on energy use and on higher-income Social Security recipients, deep defense cuts and added money for health care and selected other programs — survived unscathed.

Defeated but defiant, Republicans promised that the fights over the actual tax and spending changes will be much fiercer.

"We start shooting the real bullets from here on," said Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole of Kansas. "This is a big, big mistake we just made. Maybe there's enough time to rectify it."

Republicans were also prepared to do battle over the separate jobs package, which they said would add needlessly to the budget shortfalls. The measure would be paid for by government borrowing.



Dole

"This is a big, big mistake."